

# HOMework

JANUARY 17, 2021

COME AND SEE | THE EYE-OPENER!

JOHN 9

**Note to Leaders:** Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

## WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read John 9 in one sitting (about 4 minutes).
2. In this chapter, Jesus calls the self-assuredness of the pharisees into question. Take note of how many times they assert what they "know."
3. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
4. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

## FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. How many famous musicians can you think of who were blind? (See how many you can think of, then do an internet search to check your answers.)

## DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

1. Our Eye-Opening Savior!
  - a. Read about Jesus' mission in Isaiah 35:5 and 61:1-3.
  - b. What did Jewish people attribute this man's blindness to in John 9:1 and 34? Talk about the social stigma for him and his family.
  - c. Talk together about what a life of blindness may have been like in Jesus' day. (Keep in mind that this was a time before seeing-eye dogs, braille books and the protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act.)

d. How did the blind man's physical, emotional, social and spiritual life utterly change after Jesus healed him? What would it look like for you to trust Jesus for whole-life healing right now?

2. The sneaky growth of spiritual cataracts.

a. Read Isaiah 6:9-10 and 44:18.

b. In John 9:28, 34 the religious leaders took great confidence in their religious pedigree instead of Jesus' work. Can you think of examples today where there is great boasting and confidence by highly educated or religious people? How does the pharisee's example prove to be a warning to us?

c. By the end of the chapter, what did the simple blind man see about Jesus that the pharisees did not? What made the difference?

## BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

### Personal Reflection

1. Are you trusting Jesus like the blind man or trusting what you "know" like the pharisees?

2. Look at some of the symptoms of spiritual blindness in 1 John 2:11 and 2 Peter 1:5-9. Do you recognize any spiritual blind spots in your life?

### Group Application

1. Make a list of areas of darkness in your culture, nation, families, work, etc. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you and others to see Jesus as He really is.

## DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. There is a lot in John's gospel about light and darkness. This story provides a great opportunity to go back and meditate on each passage. This week look at John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12; 12:35 and 12:46. Each time, notice how the Holy Spirit invites you to see and trust in Jesus.

2. Apologist Sean McDowell tells the story of a documented and peer-reviewed miracle where a woman who was blind received sight because of healing prayer. Check out this amazing report: [stream.org/the-blind-receive-sight-a-peer-reviewed-modern-miracle/](https://stream.org/the-blind-receive-sight-a-peer-reviewed-modern-miracle/)